

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-02 TRSE-00  
CU-04 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /058 W  
-----109822 212045Z /73  
O 212010Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5769

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PQ  
SUBJECT: CANAL ZONE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION

1. AT ABOUT 0800 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, AN ESTIMATED 200-300  
SECONDARY STUDENTS FROM BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATED ON  
STEPS OF CANAL COMPANY/GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN  
BALBOA HEIGHTS. SOME CARRIED PREPARED SIGNS DENOUNCING NEW  
TREATY, AND CROWD SEP UP A CHANT FOR CANAL ZONE POLICE UNION  
LEADER AND ANTI-TREATY ACTIVIST WILLIAM DRUMMOND.

2. EMBASSY LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT WHEN BELL RANG FOR START  
OF CLASSES AT BALBOA HIGH AT 0750, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS REFUSED TO ENTER BUILDING. AT 0755, AND SEVERAL  
TIMES THEREAFTER DURING MORNING, FIRE ALARM IN BUILDING WAS  
SET OFF, AND EACH TIME A FEW MORE STUDENTS FAILED TO RETURN  
TO CLASSES. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES ORDERED STUDENTS TO EITHER  
GO TO CLASSES OR LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS. SOME STUDENTS HAVE  
TOLD THEIR PARENTS THEY WERE DISMISSED FROM CLASSES FOR  
THE REST OF THE DAY BY THEIR TEACHERS.

3. STUDENTS IN GROUPS OF VARYING SIZE REMAINED IN VICINITY  
OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MOST OF MORNING, BUT  
HAVE SINCE (AS OF 1300) APPARENTLY DRIFTED OFF TO LUNCH, HOME  
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OR ELSEWHERE. INFORMAL ESTIMATE FROM BALBOA HIGH IS  
THAT UP TO 70 PERCENT OF STUDENTS NOT IN CLASS AS OF -300 FEB 21.

4. INFORMAL REPORTS INDICATE SIMILAR SITUATION AT CRISTOBAL  
HIGH SCHOOL ON ATLANTIC SIDE, WITH ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT  
OF STUDENTS NOT IN CLASS. A SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT  
CURUNDU JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ON PACIFIC SIDE ARE ALSO SAID

TO BE OUT. WE HAVE LEARNED OF NO OTHER DISRUPTIONS INVOLVING  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

5. PANCANAL REPORTS THAT TEACHERS, WITH ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUAL  
EXCEPTIONS (E.G., PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL LABOR UNION-METAL  
TRADES COUNCIL LOUIS FATTOROSI HAS REPORTED SICK), ABSENTEEISM  
AMONG REACHERS IS ACTUALLY LOWER THAN NORMAL FOR END OF A  
THREE-DAY WEEKEND.

6.COMMENT. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE STARTED AS A SPONTANEOUS AND  
STUDENT-GENERATED PHENOMENON, BUT THE REPOSRTS THAT SOME  
INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED IT ARE BEING INVESTIGATED  
BY PANCANAL. PANCANAL AUTHORITIES TELL US THEY WILL DEAL WITH  
ANY EVIDENCE THAT EMERGES OF ABUSE OF TEACHERS' POSITIONS.

7. EXCEPT FOR THIS DISRUPTION IS SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITY,  
PANCANAL REPORTS ALL OTHER OPERATIONS NORMAL DURING WEEKEND  
AND TUESDAY MORNING, WITH NO EVIDENCE OF ANY 'SICK-OUT'  
OR SIMILAR JOB ACTION AMONG WORKFORCE.

JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CANALS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PANAMA01155  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780078-0762  
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**Message ID:** 13fa60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3536032  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CANAL ZONE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, SOPN, PQ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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